Build Your Case

Read a model opinion piece, then write your own.

C.3.1 "Compose opinion pieces, using a combination of writing and digital resources, on topics or texts, with supporting reasons. With guidance and support from adults..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion, number the two main reasons 1 and 2, circle two connecting words or phrases, and draw a box around the final sentence. These marks will help you see how the writer builds a case.

A Box for Rainy Days

1. Rainy days can change recess plans at our school. When the playground is too wet, our class stays inside. I think our classroom should have a rainy-day game box. It could hold card games, puzzles, and paper for word games. The box would give everyone a choice when outdoor play is not possible. It would also make indoor recess easier to plan.

2. First, the game box could help us play together. Four students might build a puzzle while two others play a card game. A student who is new to our class could join a game instead of sitting alone. Also, games can help us practice taking turns. If we agree on simple rules before we begin, each person gets a fair chance to play.

3. Another reason is that a game box could keep our room neat. We could put each game in a labeled bag and return it after recess. That way, cards would not end up under desks, and puzzles would not lose pieces. Our teacher could ask two helpers to check the box. For these reasons, a rainy-day game box would make indoor recess more fun and organized.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic does the opening introduce, and what does the writer think the class should do?

2. What is the writer's first main reason? Give one detail that supports it.

3. What is the writer's second main reason? Give one detail that supports it.

4. Which words begin the final sentence? How does that sentence bring the writer's reasons together?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a classroom change other than a rainy-day game box. Write one paragraph of six sentences: introduce the topic, state your opinion, give two reasons with a detail for each, use connecting words, and end with a conclusion.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion, number the two main reasons 1 and 2, circle two connecting words or phrases, and draw a box around the final sentence. These marks will help you see how the writer builds a case. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the opening introduce, and what does the writer think the class should do?	**The topic is indoor recess on rainy days. The writer thinks the class should have a rainy-day game box.**
2	What is the writer's first main reason? Give one detail that supports it.	**The box could help students play together. For example, a new student could join a game instead of sitting alone.**
3	What is the writer's second main reason? Give one detail that supports it.	**The box could keep the room neat. Games could go in labeled bags and be returned after recess.**
4	Which words begin the final sentence? How does that sentence bring the writer's reasons together?	**The words are "For these reasons." The sentence sums up the ideas that the box would make recess more fun and keep the room organized.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class reads many books each week. I think we should make a book recommendation board. First, students could write the titles of books they enjoyed, which would help classmates choose what to read next. Also, short notes about each book could help readers find stories they like. For example, a note could say a book has a funny dog. A recommendation board would make it easier to discover new books.

Accept different supporting details from the passage when they match the named reason. For the writing task, look for six sentences in one paragraph with an opinion, two reasons, details, connecting words, and a conclusion.